SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH,

CENTRAL PROVINCES, CENTRAL INDIA, AND RAJPUTANA, Received up to 22nd February, 1887.

POLITICAL.

The Zarifu-l-Hind (Meerut), of the 16th February, adverting to the rumour that Iskandar Khán, Abdul Rahmán Khán's cousin, will shortly receive a commission in the Russian army, says that this is only one of the many indications that the St. Petersburg Government desires to pick a quarrel with the British Government. Formerly, when the Khán of Khiva was frightened at the approach of Russians near his frontier, he offered to enter into an alliance with the British Government on condition of its protecting his kingdom from Russian encroachments, but the British Government unwisely refused to listen to his application. The policy of masterly inactivity pursued by England in Central Asia has enabled the Russians to make a steady advance in that quarter.

Turkey and England.

that a native newspaper has observed that the Porte will shortly pay for having alienated from it the sympathy of the British Government. But the Tútiya sees no reason to acquiesce in this opinion. The Sultan bears no enmity towards the British Government,

Circulation, 200 copies.

Circulation, 300 copies.

but he is anxious to have Egypt evacuated by the British army, and his desire is perfectly justifiable. When Arabi Pasha rebelled against the Egyptian Government, the British Government voluntarily offered to put down the rebellion, saying that it had no intention of injuring the rights of the The Turks being a simple and credulous people and the Turkish finances being in an unsatisfactory condition at the time, the Sultan agreed to the proposal. But the British policy in Egypt during the last four years has been highly injurious to Turkish and French interests. The Bulgarian difficulty offered the Turks an opportunity of making friends with the Russians and of bringing pressure to bear on the British Government to withdraw its troops from Egypt. The Sultan wisely availed himself of the opportunity, and the result is that the British army in Egypt will be reduced to 4,000 troops by April next. It would be well if the Turks were able to gradually regain possession of their other lost provinces.

Circulation, 175 copies.

The Noiyar-i-Azam (Moradabad), of the 14th February, says that, in order to maintain its rule The same. in this country, it is necessary for the British Government to remain on friendly terms with the Sultan of Turkey, who is looked upon as their religious head by the eighty million Indian Musalmans. Some persons are of opinion that the British Governmenthas always secretly sought to injure Turkey. They say that it instigated the Crimean war, which greatly crippled the resources of Turkey. Again in the late Russo-Turkish war England did not assist the Porte, but, on the contrary, she took the island of Cyprus from it; and lately she has occupied Egypt. The Sultan, being convinced of her secret enmity, has begun to make friends It will be observed that his hostility with the Russians. will be highly injurious to the British Government. He can stop British traffic with India through the Suez Canal, and a rupture will grieve the Indian Musalmans, though, of course, they will not rebel against the latter. Hence the British Government had better renew its friendship with the Porte.

The Sahifa-i-Nami (Lucknow), of the 16th February, says that the Sultan of Turkey is the Turkey and Musalmans head of the whole Muhammadan world, but he has alienated from him the sympathy of Musalmáns by his unwise policy. Even the Arabs, the Egyptians, and Syrians, who are under his rule, are displeased with him. This state of things naturally causes grief to all Musalmans. whose hopes and aspirations are entirely centred in Turkey. They have much of their former religious enthusiasm still left in them, and if the Sultan makes it a point to win their good will, he will become the most powerful king on the earth. The Sunnis will at once sympathize with him and will be ready to sacrifice their lives and property on his behalf if he strictly adheres to the principles of Muhammadan religion, He could even win over the Shias by showing indulgence and kindness to the Shia pilgrims to the Karbala, The Turks have unwisely turned into enemies the Ahl-i-Hadis Musalmáns, who are more enthusiastic than other classes of Musalmans, by not allowing them to enter the shrine at Mecca. They could be conciliated without much difficulty.

Circulation, 300 copies.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The Wagaya-i- Alam (Gházipur), of the 14th February, adverting to its previous article on Quarrel between Magistrate and the Jubilee the quarrel between the Magistrate Celebration Committee at and the Jubilee Celebration Com-Ballia. mittee at Ballia, says that the Government of India, in its Resolution regarding the celebration of the Jubilee in this country, expressly told the district authorities to keep themselves in the background in the matter and to allow the people to give a spontaneous expression of their loyalty. But it is to be regretted that at some places the Magistrates have still had the audacity to act with high-handedness as usual. The Magistrate of Ballia prepared an address which contained sentences injurious to the rights of the people, and set about forcibly obtaining signatures to it. He was supported by two native officers in the matter. But pleaders

Circulation, 225 copies and other educated natives were highly indignant at the Magistrate's proceeding and opposed the address. It reflects no small credit on Bábu Jagdeo Bahádur Singh of Nagra that he boldly refused to sign the address and ran the risk of displeasing the district authorities. Considering the general dissatisfaction caused by his address, at last Mr. Mulock gave way and allowed the address to be altered in accordance with the wishes of the people. This speaks well for his good sense and shows that he is amenable to reason. But the conduct of the native officers who, in order to win his good will, assisted him in his endeavour to force such an objectionable address on the people, cannot be too highly condemned. Anglo-Indians would do well to remember that the spread of English education has made a great change in native character. Natives are perfectly loyal to the British throne, but they also value their rights and privileges and are prepared to assert them.

The same paper says that there is no doubt that convicts

Jubilee and the Govern. ment servants who do not hold the middle-class examination certificate.

will be released and empty titles bestowed on the people in honour of the Jubilee, in accordance with Western custom. But the Waqaya has been

requested by many persons to ask for the release of the middle-class examination prisoners. The case of men already in Government service, who have been allowed to hold their appointments on condition of their obtaining the middle-class examination certificate within a fixed time, deserves consideration. It is difficult for these people to find time to prepare for the examination, which is not an easy one. Government would place them and those who depend on them for their support under a deep debt of gratitude if it exempted them from the examination.

Circulation, 660 copies.

Prisoners released in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh on the Jubilee

The Ouah Akhbar (Lucknow), of the 19th February, says that all classes of the people in this country took part in the Jubilee celebrations on the 16th idem. But the prisoners who were released on the morning of that memorable day will not forget the happy event to the end of their lives and will always remain grateful to Government. In these provinces the total jail population was 25,000, of whom 6,500 convicts were released. The Akhbar then refers to the classes of prisoners to whom the indulgence was shown, and states that seventy civil prisoners were also released, their debts, amounting to nearly Rs. 4,000 in the aggregate, being paid by Government.

The Azad (Lucknow), of the 18th February, does not Jubilee memorial at Fyz. approve of the intention of the people abad. at Fyzabad to build a clock tower as the Jubilee memorial, and suggests that the Jubilee Fund should be devoted to the support of poor widows and orphans. It would be still better if the funds of some districts were jointly utilized for the purpose of establishing a technical school at Lucknow.

Circulation, 240 copies.

The Najmu-l-Akhbár (Etáwah), of the 16th February, is printed on red paper in golden letters. It publishes an article expressing joy at the advent of the fiftieth year of Her Majesty's reign and adverting to the benefits bestowed on this country by British Government, and an Urdu poem praying for the long life and prosperity of Her Majesty. The paper also gives an account of the arrangements made at Etáwah for the celebration of the happy occasion.

Circulation, 175 copies.

The Aligarh Institute Gazette, of the 16th February, is printed in red letters and gives an account of the Jubilee celebrations at Aligarh and publishes the addresses presented there on the occasion.

Circulation, 510 copies.

The Koh-i-Nér (Lahore), of the 17th and 19th February, publishes an account of the Jubilee celebrations and festivities held at Lahore on the 16th and 17th February. The issue of the 19th February is printed on red paper.

Circulation, 450 copies. Circulation, 254 copies. The extra Akhbar-i-Chunar, of the 16th February, is printied on red paper and publishes articles
and poems expressing joy at Her
Majesty's Jubilee.

Circulation, 660 copies.

The Oudh Akhbar (Lucknow), of the 16th February, which is printed on red paper, contains the programme of the Jubilee celebrations at Lucknow, and publishes an article in praise of Her Majesty's rule. A picture of Her Majesty has been issued with the paper as a supplement:

Circulation, 550 copies.

The Prayag Samachar (Allahabad), of the 19th February, gives a brief account of the celebration of the Jubilee at Allahabad and publishes a Hindi ode composed by the editor in honour of the occasion. (The extra Prayag Mittra, Allahabad, printed on red paper, publishes a Hindi poem in honour of the Jubilee, expressing joy at the happy event, but urging the revival of the panchait system for the decision of civil suits.)

Circulation, 300 copies.

The Panjábí Akhbár (Lahore), of the 16th February, describes the origin of the Jubilee festi-The same. val, adverts to the three previous occasions on which the event has been celebrated in England, briefly refers to the chief advantages which natives enjoy under British rule, mentions the different schemes which have been proposed to perpetuate the memory of the Jubilee at Lahore in a permanent way, and urges that Government should repeal the Arms Act and strictly carry out the terms of the Royal proclamation of 1858. (The Dabdaba-i-Qaisari, Bareilly, of the 16th February, expresses joy at the happy event and refers to the perfect security of life and property, the increased facilities of communication, the spread of education, the freedom of the press, and other benefits which the British government has bestowed on this country).

Circulation, 125 copies. The Jalvá-i-Ezdi (Meerut), of the 17th February, which appears entirely in golden letters, publishes an ode congratulating Her Majesty on the Jubilee and refers to the arrangements made at

Meerut for the celebration of the event. (The Sarosh-i-Benares, of the 16th February, publishes a poem in praise of Her Majesty's rule. The Azád, Cawnpore, of the 18th February, the extra Latifu-l-Akhbán, Gorakhpur, of the 16th February, and other newspapers publish poems and articles expressing joy at Her Majesty's Jubilee and give accounts of the celebrations held at different places.)

The Bharat Jiwan (Benares), of the 14th February, publishes select benedictory odes, composed by Hindi authors in posed by Hindi authors of Upper India at the request of the Association of Hindi poets at Benares, in honour of Her Majesty's Jubilee and approved by the Association. Each stanza in most of the odes ends with a prayer for the long life of the Queen-Empress.

Circulation, 2,200 copies.

The Azád (Lucknow), of the 18th February, says that the Oudh Akhbár, in giving an account Sir Alfred Lyall's government. of the Lieutenant-Governor's late visit to the Agra College, praises His Honor for the advancement of education. But this is mere flattery. His Honor has done nothing to encourage education. On the contrary, his views in connection with the proposed University at Allahabad were found to be such as would be injurious to the cause of education and progress. Sir George Couper's government was not good and failed to please either Europeans or natives. Sir Alfred Lyall's administration has been an uneventful one. He has done no great harm to the country nor has he bestowed any great benefit on it. The establishment of the Legislative Council is the only memorable event of his government. The Oudh Akhbár would do well to suggest? to His Honor to do something to win popularity with the people. His speech at the Agra College was one of the ordinary kind, and he evaded the question of technical education, although such education is at present much needed in this country.

Circulation, 240 copies.

Circulation, 150 copies.

The Anjuman-i-Panjáb, Lahore, of the 12th February, expresses great surprise and regret Case of Shaikh Mihr Ali, Hoshiarpur. at the sentence of death and confiscation of all property passed on Shaikh Mihr Ali by the Sessions Judge of Hoshiarpur, says that the sentence has caused widespread grief to Muhammadans in the Panjáb, but hopes that justice will be done him by the Chief Court. (The Panjábí Akhbár, Lahore, of the 19th February, the Páté Khán, Lahore, of the 16th idem, and Nizamu-l-Mulk, Moradabad, of the 16th idem, express nearly the same sentiments regarding the sentence passed on the Shaikh. The Panjahi Akhbar regrets that the persons who took part in the religious riots in different parts of the country were punished, while native editors, who had chiefly instigated the riots, received no punishment.)

Circulation, 550 copies.

The Aftab-i-Panjab (Lahore), of the 18th February, says that the Táju-l-Akhbár in its local Dearth of grain at Lahore. news column, complains that great distress prevails among the poorer classes of the people owing to the dearth of grain, and that poor yet respectable persons are to be seen begging alms at night. The Aftab referred to the subject at some length in its issue of the 22nd December, 1886. About half the population of Lahore has only one scanty meal during the day, the income of the lower classes hardly exceeding Rs. 5 a month and wheat selling at 12 or 13 seers the rupee. The condition of poor persons belonging to the respectable classes, who have no funds to carry on any trade and who are unable to find employment, is most unsatisfactory. It would be well if Sir Charles Aitchison walked through the streets of the city at night in disguise like Harun-ul-Rashid and ascertained how much distress prevails among the people. The last crop was an average one and so is the present. The dearth has been brought about by the large purchases made by grain-The Aftab knows that Government pursues a policy of free trade, but the case of grain trade is a special one and would justify Government interference.

that the Jarida-i-Rozgár newspaper of Madras states that, on the occasion of his late visit to Delhi, Nawab Mirza Firoz Husain Khán, a well-known native of Madras, distributed all the money he had with him at the time among the poor Delhi princes and promised to pay them Rs. 250 a month. The Jarida appeals to the nobility and gentry, and especially to the Hyderabad Darbar, to render relief to them and save the family of Timur from extinction. The Qaisari hopes the appeal of the Madras journal will not go for

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nothing, and advises the princes to receive education in order

that they may be able to earn themselves their livelihood.

Circulation, 200 copies.

The Nasim-i-Agra, of the 15th February, complains that the supply of provisions and other Official tours. things to the camps of Government officers on tour involves much inconvenience and expense to the people. Official tours should not be put a stop to, inasmuch as they afford the officers an opportunity of enquiring into the condition of the people, but steps should certainly be taken to check the evil in question. Formerly, on the occasion of the visit of the Viceroy or the Lieutenant-Governor to some places, a tax was levied by the tahsildars from shop-keepers to meet the cost of provisions supplied to his camp, but the objectionable practice was forbidden on the Nasim drawing attention to it. Some officers have full payments made to traders and other persons in their own pre-It would be well if all officers did the same. Nasím has often seen the subordinates and private servants of officers on tour paying for sweetmeats and other things at much below the market rates; but tahsildars refrain from insisting on full rates being paid, because in that case the private servants of officers are sure to find fault with the supplies

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Circulation, 325 copies.

in order to bring tahsildars into trouble. Landowners have to supply fuel and grass gratis and are often obliged to pay bribes to official underlings in order to save their cattle from being pressed into service.

The Adib-i-Alam (Moradabad), of the 14th February, is unable to understand why about two Lower Subordinate Grade hundred candidates for the Lower Pleadership Examination, Allaha bad. Subordinate Grade Pleadership Examination held during the last Christmas were excluded from It is true that some of them had not filed the examination. their education certificates, but all the others had sent in their applications in time with the usual fees and certificates, and it is not clear why their names were not published in the Allahabad Government Gazette. Some of them called upon the Registrar of the High Court on the 27th December last and represented the matter to him in vain. The Lower Subordinate Grade Pleadership Examination has been abolished for the future, but these men who were excluded from the late examination through no fault of theirs should be offered another chance. The Adib hopes that the High Court will take their case into consideration and do them justice.

Circulation, 165 copies. The Hindustán (Kálákankar), of the 20th February, is Finance Committee and grieved to say that the Finance Committee and mittee has recommended a large reduction in the expenditure on public instruction. Good results were expected from the committee, but the reverse has been the case. It may be hoped that the Government of India will not accept its recommendations in the matter; otherwise education, which has cost Government so much trouble and expense, but which is still in its infancy, will receive a serious blow and all progress will be stopped.

The same paper, of the 16th February, adverting to the result of the enquiry of the coroner's jury into the fire at the People's Park, Madras, and to the recommendations of the jury for

satisfactory arragements being made for extinguishing fires and an Act being passed for the regulation of fairs, says that other Local Governments should also adopt the recommendations in question. In every large city means should be provided of rapidly putting out fires. The enforcement of some general rules for the regulation and control of large fairs with a view of protecting the lives and property of the people is equally necessary.

LEGISLATION.

The Azad (Lucknow), of the 18th February, enters a strong protest against the provisions of the Bengal Civil Courts Bill. which are intended to transfer from Munsifs and Subordinate Judges to the District Judges the power of appointing ministerial officials in the offices of the former.

Circulation, 240 copies.

NATIVE STATES.

The Attab-i-Panjab (Lahore), of the 16th February, is Diwán Lachhman Dás, glad to say that Diwán Lachhman Dás, who has lately been elevated to the Prime Ministership in Kashmir, has shown himself to be a very impartial officer. He has not sought to shield even Diwán Gobind Saháya, late Prime Minister, but, finding him to have misappropriated Rs. 65,000, has ordered him to make good the sum. Some persons consider him to be over-strict, but this is a mistake. The show of indulgence to criminals tends to encourage crime.

Circulation, 500 copies.

The Vazir-i-Hind (Siálkot), of the 13th February, regrets to say that the state of affairs is reported to be very unsatisfactory in Kashmir. Shaikh Mirán Bakhsh has been thrown into prison and is treated with great severity. He gets food and even water only once during the day and night. In jails in British India convicts can drink water as often as they please. Diwán Lachhman Dás should have first made it a point to improve the administration instead of ill-treating the old officers. If he had reason to believe that they had

Circulation, 192 copies. misappropriated the public money, he should have gradually checked their accounts and recovered from them any sums: that might have been found due by them to the State. The Mahárája himself is greatly annoyed at his high-handed proceedings and besought the Council to act with moderation in vain. Indeed, His Highness has been so much grieved that he does not take food properly and has become very weak. The editors of Lahore newspapers, who are accustomed to flatter Díwán Lachhman Dás, have gone to Kashmir in order to congratulate him on his elevation and share in his generosity. It appears from the Akhbar-i-Am that on a former occasion he gave an editor Rs. 1,200. Diwán Gobind Sahaya has been charged with misappropriating the State money, and his son has been dismissed from his office. Ráe Rádha Kishan has been suspended, and Sardár Karam Singh and Sardár Lálman ordered to give security for Rs. 30,000 each. The Department of Secret Intelligence, which was under the management of a relative of Díwán Gobind Saháya, has been abolished. Hakím Fidá Muhammad Khán has been obliged to leave Kashmir and return to his Sánwal Singh was fined Rs. 100 for riding through the Mandi. The high-handedness of the new Prime Minister has caused a panic among the State officers.

Circulation, 325 copies.

The Sahifa-i-Quasi (Delhi), of the 17th February, is Manager of Pataudi surprised that Pandit Kishan Lal has been allowed to hold the office of Manager of the Pataudi State without a break for the last ten years. It is time that the Manager should be changed. If Government desires to patronize the Pandit and his relatives, his brother, Niranjan Lal, may be appointed to the office. The Commissioner of Delhi should see to this.

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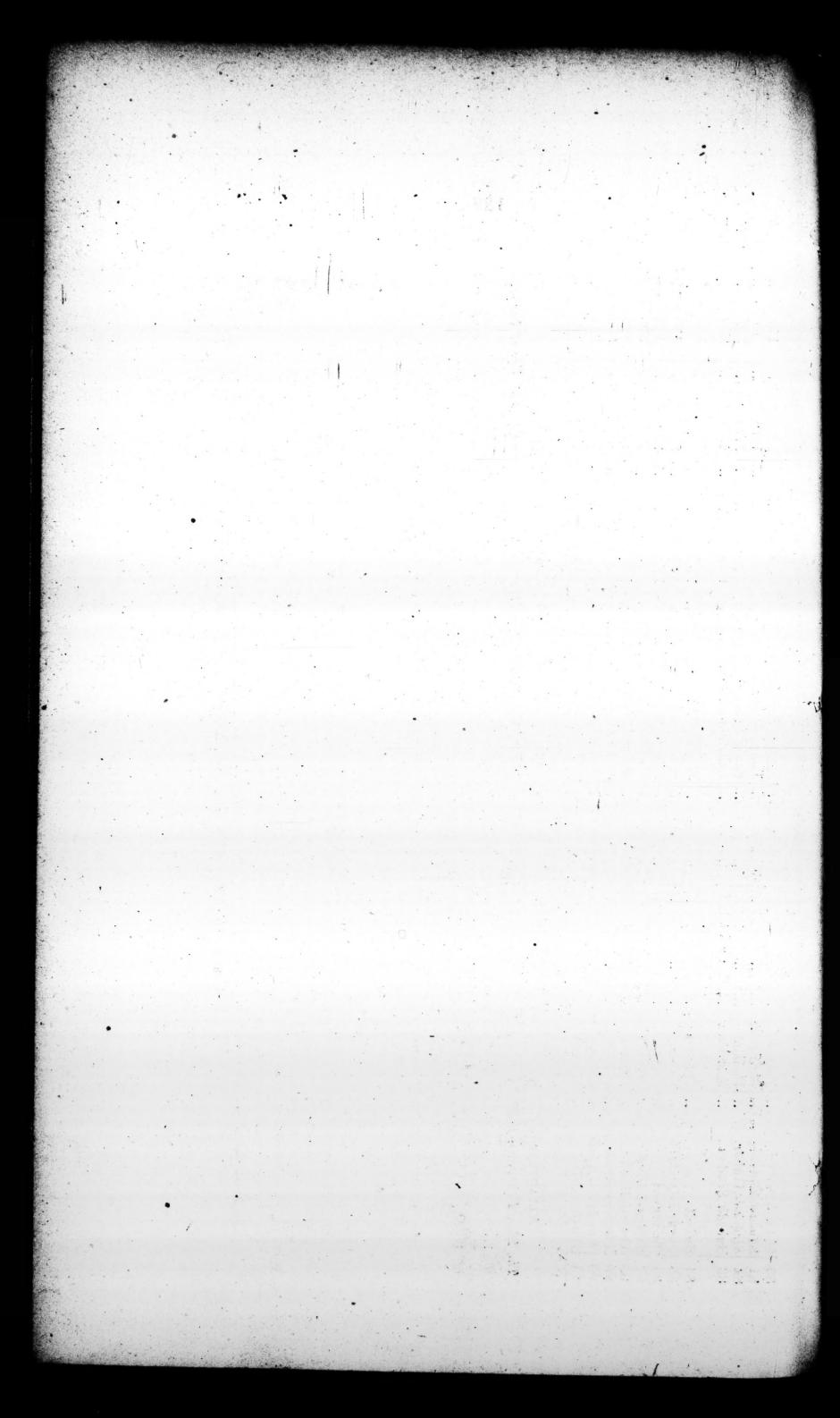
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